



DRAFT MEETING NOTES

IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee Meeting

**Capital View 1 Building, Olympia, WA
March 2, 2009**

The IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee Meeting convened on March 2, 2009 at the Capital View 1 Building, in Olympia.

► In Attendance

The following Tribes/organizations were in attendance:

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, Lummi Nation, Nooksack Tribe, Skokomish Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA), Tulalip Tribes, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Quileute Tribe

Representatives from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the Economic Services Administration (ESA) were in attendance. ESA representatives included staff from:

State Tribal Relations Office (STRO), Division of Child Support (DCS), Community Services Division (CSD), Operations Support (OS), Office of the Assistant Secretary (OAS).

Representatives from the DSHS Indian Policy Support Services (IPSS) were also in attendance.

► Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

Rosi Francis, IPSS, provided the invocation, Sarah Colleen Sotomish, STRO, welcomed everyone to the IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee Meeting and asked for introductions. She reviewed the draft agenda. There were no requested revisions to the agenda.

► **State MOE Funding** - Troy Hutson, ESA Assistant Secretary, discussed the impact of the State budget deficit on ESA and funding for Tribal TANF programs:

- Troy reviewed the information presented in the January 27th letter he sent to tribal Chairs that discussed the budget situation and MOE reductions to Tribal TANF programs, including the decision by the WorkFirst Subcabinet 2 to limit the MOE reduction from 10 percent to 5 percent.

► **Legislative Updates** - Dori Shoji, Office of the Assistant Secretary, provided legislative highlights:

- Dori provided summaries of the significant bills impacting ESA during the current 2009 legislative session. The 2009 regular legislative session began on January 12, 2009 and is scheduled to end on April 26, 2009.

► **Budget Updates** – Babette “Babs” Roberts, ESA Fiscal Chief, provided budget updates:

- Babs provided an overview of the Governor’s proposed 2009-11 budget for DSHS/ESA. Included in her discussion were the impacts to ESA services, staffing and administrative costs due to the reduction in funding provided to the Administration.

► **Community Services Administration (CSD) Updates** - David Rendon, CSD Policy Chief, provided updates that included:

- Tribal Eligibility Project: The tribal eligibility pilot project with Port Gamble S’Klallam is still pending federal approvals but is progressing. We expect that Medicaid eligibility determinations will begin first as it is nearly through the CMS approval process. However, we are still waiting for federal approval to expand this to non-Native Americans.

ESA and the Tribe have received a favorable response from FNS on the Basic Food proposal. We are moving to the next stage in the process – completion of an evaluation plan and a cost allocation plan. Staff are also finalizing training options for tribal staff so this can be provided as soon as all the necessary federal permissions are in place. We are close to finalizing the Inter-governmental agreement with the Tribe.

- Concurrent Benefits: We sent a letter to Tribal Chairs on February 12th to remind them that we can provide TANF cash and medical assistance to both the parent and an adult caretaker when CPS has removed a child from the parent’s home, placed them with an adult caretaker and plans to return the child to their parent’s home within six months.

We reviewed the letter at the March 2, 2009 IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee meeting. We explained that since clients cannot receive state and Tribal TANF benefits in the same month, we will close the parent’s case if their child is temporarily opened on a Tribal TANF grant with an adult caretaker.

CSD agreed to share the information again and invite a representative from the Children’s Administration to help answer any questions around policies and procedures at the next ESA-DVR Subcommittee meeting.

- State-Tribal Income Workgroup: The State-Tribal Income Workgroup met for the second time on February 23, 2009 with a focus on the application and interview process and a state-tribal staff survey. Survey results demonstrated a common desire for clearer rules and better and easier ways for CSO and Tribal staff to communicate during the eligibility determination process.

The state confirmed that it welcomes verification from Tribal governments, based on individual Tribal member’s circumstances, to document their anticipated self-employment income and the type and amount of their work expenses.

We will hold the next State-Tribal workgroup meeting in two months. We plan to discuss the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as it created new Medicaid/CHIP exemptions for tribal resources. We also plan to begin discussions on how tribal governments might facilitate the eligibility determination process for their members. As requested, CSD will e-mail a copy of the new federal law with the medical exemptions to ESA/DVR Subcommittee members.

► **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Updates** - Avreayl Jacobson, DVR community Relations Administrator provided the following updates:

- Some of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) [‘the Federal Stimulus Package’] signed on Feb 17th by President Obama will be coming to WA state for vocational rehabilitation and independent living services. The Act includes \$500 million for Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants and \$180 million for Independent Living programs.

The Act also provides billions of dollars for education programs and includes funding for programs that serve both youth with disabilities and disconnected youth. The ARRA specifically designates \$1.2M for Dept. of Labor grants to States for youth activities such as summer employment for youth. Other programs identified in the stimulus package that benefit youth include youth mentoring grants and incentives to business for hiring disconnected youth.

The US Dept. of Education has established an ARRA web page with information on programs administered by the U.S. Dept. of Education including a fact sheet and budget information, including state allocations. The Department will be posting guidelines and timetables for each funding stream included in the act. It intends to get half of the money to the states within 40 days and the second half within six months. www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/

Avreayl also shared introductory information about the new [July 2008] Ticket to Work Program [TTW] rules for Employment Networks. This program provides a potential new revenue source of unrestricted funds for entities [employment networks] providing assistance to help individuals with disabilities who are on Social Security Administration cash assistance [SSI, SSDI] return to work. There are many potential ways Tribes may find this program useful. Please see attached flyers. The WORD documents are large print for people with visual disabilities. The Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities program, another part of the Ticket to Work Program was briefly mentioned. Information and presentations are available.

Avreayl Jacobson is also available to come to Tribes to provide more detailed and individualized presentations and technical assistance on the new TTW rules and/or the Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities Program. She can be reached at [360] 725-3663, jacobaa@dshs.wa.gov

► **Division of Child Support (DCS) Update** – David Stillman, DCS Director, provided the following updates:

- Legislative update regarding Child Support Bills of interest: DCS Request Legislation to bring Washington into compliance with federal regulations that went into effect on July 21, 2008 that requires parents to provide health coverage for their children through health insurance and/or cash medical support (SB 5612, SHB 1845). A discussion followed regarding IHS services. David shared that IHS services continue to be an acceptable alternative to providing private health insurance, as long as it is available to the child and private insurance is not available to the obligated parent at no cost. Here are two related links regarding Medical Support & IHS:

- Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), [OCSE PIQ 94-07 Medical Support Enforcement for Tribal Members](#) [OCSE PIQ 94-07 Medical Support Enforcement for Tribal Members](#)
- State DCS Policy, [DCS Handbook Section 13.060](#)

Jennifer LaPointe shared that with medical costs skyrocketing and very limited IHS funding, at some point in the future, we may want to again discuss DCS policy issues regarding IHS services.

- Proposed changes to child support license suspension provisions regarding administrative hearing requirements, conditions for certification and payment schedules, and a change that would make is a

misdeemeanor when a person has a previous infraction for driving with a child support-related license suspension (SSB 5166, HB 1771).

- Implementation of some of the Child Support Schedule Workgroup recommendations (SHB 1794):
1) Increasing min. support from \$25/mo/child to \$50. 2) Changing how support is set in the absence of a parent's income to allow a court to consider other factors of how to impute income (including using minimum wage). 3) Changing how to consider income from second jobs and overtime. 4) Changes in the Economic Table. See the "DCS Child Support Schedule Workgroup Website" (<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/Resources/workgroup.asp#w1>) to view the Workgroup's Final Report. David encouraged Tribal participation on the next Child Support Schedule Workgroup.
- The Governor's hiring freeze has impacted about 50 out of 1,150 DCS positions. Jennifer LaPointe shared that she wants to go on record that Tribal Liaison positions are critical and Tribes do not want those positions impacted by the freeze. David agreed with the importance of Tribal Liaison positions, and shared that Tribal Liaisons provide core services that need to be preserved.
- Deborah Doyle, Everett DCS District Manager, accepted a promotion as the Region 4 Regional Administrator for the Community Services Division (CSD). Effective 3/1/09, Patti Dalrymple, Fife DCS District Manager, transferred to Everett to permanently fill the District Manager position. Due to the hiring freeze through 6/30/09, Harry Welling, Tacoma DCS District Manager, will also serve as the Interim District Manager for the Fife Office.
- Brady Rossnagle shared the DCS Tribal Relations Team's (TRT's) Strategic Plan and draft Brochure. He highlighted their Vision, Mission, Goals, Core Values, and Initiatives and asked for input and feedback from Tribes. A couple of recommendations were provided for consideration. TRT's Strategic Plan is available on the main page of their Tribal Relations Website at www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/tribal. Brady welcomed any additional input by email or telephone.
- Brady announced the recent federal approval of the Tulalip Tribes' Comprehensive Child Support Program. The Tulalip Tribe is the 6th Tribe in Washington State that has a Child support program and the 33rd Tribal Child Support program in the Country. Brady shared a resource listing Tribal Comprehensive and Start-up Child Support programs in the State and a listing of recent child support agreements.
 - Division of Child Support (DCS) Legislative Manager, Nancy Koptur, discussed the department's plan to move forward with a revised version of Z-0015 Medical Support Enforcement Bill. The department will not pursue two other pieces of legislation that were under consideration earlier this year.

► **IPAC ESA-DVR Matrix Update:**

- Rosi Francis, IPSS Region Manager, reviewed and updated the matrix with the group during a morning meeting session. The group decided to review the WAC Development related Matrix items during the afternoon WAC Development Workgroup session. Rosi will distribute the updated Matrix.
- The discussion included a review of the Matrix topic heading "Current Issues", #3, "Tribal rep's to serve on our advisory committees". This item was in reference to two (2) advisory committees:
 - Economic Services Administration Advisory Committee (ESAC): Update provided that by the Governor's executive order this committee has been discontinued
 - CSD Customer Service Advisory Committee: CSD will confirm the status of this advisory committee and respond back to the group. Post-Meeting Note: After the meeting we confirmed that this committee is still ongoing and meeting regularly.

► **Follow up assignments include:**

- CSD will share concurrent benefit information again at the next Subcommittee meeting and invite the Children's Administration to help answer any questions that arise.
- IPSS will complete and distribute the revised matrix.

► **Next Meeting:**

- The next IPAC ESA-DVR Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2009. The meeting will be held at the same location as the March 2nd meeting: Capital View 1 Building, 712 Pear St SE, Olympia, WA.
 - As requested, future IPAC ESA-DVR Subcommittee meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. to make it easier for those with a long drive to attend the meetings.